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EXPLOSIVE DUSTS.

Dangers from Pulverized Grains,
Sugar, Starch, Etc.

The Philosophy of the Matter—Striking
Cases and Curious Accidents.
—The Investigations of
a Chemist.

(New York Sun.)
"Flour looks innocent enough," an
overseer remarked while watching the
removal of some barrels of flour and other
grains from a large warehouse.
"That depends upon how it is cooked,"
the reporter suggested.
"Just so," it is dangerous enough in
that way; but I was thinking of it as an
explosive. Just look across the room.
You see, when the sun rays come in the
air is loaded with a fine grain of dust, and
if you were provided with microscopic eyes
you would see yourself fairly surrounded
with atoms of grains of all kinds. Now,
suppose you take a dried ear of corn and
fire it. It burns very slowly and the
chances are that it will go out. Shell it,
or take the kernels off, and it burns much
quicker. Suppose now we grind the corn,
it will burn quicker still, say in a minute;
but if you pulverize it, reduce it to a
powder or dust, and ignite it, it goes off
like a flash, and has great expansive
power. That is just the case here. If
the room becomes overcharged with dust,
and is ignited, it goes off, blowing the
house to pieces.

"One of the most striking cases occurred
several years ago when the Washington
mill caught fire. Those who knew anything
about it just got out of the way as quick
as they could; powder wouldn't have sent
them any faster. Blow up! Well,
shouldn't rather think she did. The walls of
the mill were solid stone six feet thick,
and when the explosion came they were
just like paper, and the roof, made of
sheet-iron, was blown so high from one
mill that it landed more than two miles
from the spot where it went up. Of
course it was helped by the wind, but the
force exerted was shown. Men have been
blown out of their shoes, and the walls of a
building completely demolished by a man's
lighting a pipe in a big grain-house.

"A curious accident once happened in
Scotland in a large house. A man walked
in with a cigar in his mouth, and in a
second the room seemed to be filled with
fire and a terrible roar, but a minute later
it cleared off. With the exception of a
singeing, not a person was hurt, but every
eye of the four walls was flat on the
ground, and the roof had been lifted
bodily and dropped 300 feet away. In such
cases there must be a fire first. The dust
burns, and a powerful heat is created, and
then follows the terrific expansive force
that nothing can withstand. The explosion
in Barclay street several years ago
may be accounted for in this way. In the
manufacture of candy, sugar and starch
are used in great quantities. Their dust
accumulates, and when lighted might
easily display power enough to hurl a
building to atoms.

"Has the explosive power of different
dusts ever been determined?"

"Yes," the flour man replied. "Pro-
fessor Peck, the chemist, has made some
experiments that demonstrate the enor-
mous power of sawdust, various flours,
starch, and grain of all kinds. In one of
the experiments he took three-quarters of
an ounce of starch, and by raising it at
dust in the air, ignited it in a compart-
ment intended to represent a room. When
exploded it threw a box weighing six
pounds twenty feet in the air. You can
judge of the power of the dust. The box
was half an ounce of starch ignited in
the same way was shown by the pro-
fessor to lift the cover of a box and a
heavy man standing on it three inches.

"One of the most dangerous materials
is the wheat-dust of flour-mills. When
burned it goes off like a flash. One of the
first movements in making flour is to rattle
the wheat, and pass a heavy draft of air
as it time over it, to carry off the highly-
inflammable dust. Yet, despite all care,
the air becomes heavily loaded with it.

Prof. Peck has shown what flour would
do by taking a box with a capacity of two
cubic feet and placing in it a little flour,
the light of a lamp entering through a hole
in one corner, and the muzzle of a blow-
pipe directed at the dust. The cover of the box
was called on and a man took his place
on it. The professor then worked the blow-
pipe, and the small amount of flour filled
the air in the box, as dust, the
face-mills of a dust-laden mill being
produced. The flour immediately
ignited from a lamp, and in a second the
cover was blown off and the man lifted
several inches into the air, while a blaze of
fire burst out from all sides. A number
of interesting experiments were performed
by the same gentleman, showing that in
our large manufacturing where dust was
likely to be formed there lurked a power
as dreaded as dynamite. Peck states that
one pound of carbon and two and two-
thirds of oxygen, when they combined to
produce carbonic acid, give off a heat
sufficient if applied to a perfect heating
engine, to lift nearly 600 tons ten feet
into the air. Then he assumes that if 40
per cent. of flour is carbon it would require
two and one-half pounds to accomplish
this result.

German Forest Police.

In Germany the woods have their police,
whose duty it is to see that no devastation
is wrought by inconsiderate owners. No
man may cut down his trees without the
sanction of the authorities. The reason is
that wood is the staple fuel of the country,
and if the government did not step in to
protect the people against their own im-
providence, the peasants would speedily
sweep away all their forests to enable them
to clear the mortgages which the Jews
hold on their lands. In Bavaria the price
of fuel rose between 1880 and 1884 as much
as 60 per cent., and building timber rose
70 per cent.

"In all times and in all places there has
come from the lowly and despised the seed
and the sower," says Dr. Richard M. Bucke.

Business Cards.

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eral Jobbers in WINES and LIQUORS.
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Importers and Wholesale Dealers in
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Grocers and Provision Dealers.
Family Grocery and Feed Store.
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General Commission Merchants,
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Sales of Furniture, Stock, Real Estate
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Sole Agents for:
American & European Merchandise.
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(Limited)
Money Loaned on First Class Securi-
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Office on Queen St., over G. W. Macfarlane & Co.
195-11

Advertisements.

--TO THE LADIES--

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We beg to inform our friends and customers that
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this well known firm, and have much
pleasure in having inspection
of our large and varied
assortment of

Japanese Goods,

JUST IMPORTED.
Comprising the following:—
EMBROIDERED FINE SCREENS
Of the most beautiful colors, and of astonishing
beauty and finish.

BED SPREADS

—AND—
TABLE COVERS,
Embroidered in Silk by Japanese.
A LARGE VARIETY OF

VASES

Of the finest porcelain, remarkable for uniqueness
in color and shape.

—ALSO—
Porcelain Figures, Japanese Tea Sets
Of the Finest China.

Tete-a-Tete Sets,
Butter Dishes,
Ash Receivers,
Silk Lanterns,
Silk Embroidered Kimonos,
Enslens,
Carved Wooden Cabinets,
Hand Screens, Trays,
Fans,
Photographs
Of Japanese scenery, colored and plain.

A Large Selection of
Japanese Bronze Jewelry,
CONSISTING OF
Sleeve Buttons, Chains,
Scarf Pins, &c., &c.
Also a variety of goods suitable for house decoration.

G. W. MACFARLANE & CO.
118-11

Mirrlees, Watson & Co's

Sugar Machinery.
WE HAVE ON HAND

One Triple Effect,
One Set of Four Centrifugals,
Engine and Mixer,
Spare Spindles, bushes, &c., for
Centrifugals.

One 26in x 54in Mill, with engine gear-
ing, Cane and Messag Carriers
Complete.

One Spare Roller 26in x 54in.
One Spare Intermediate Wheel for
Gearing of 26in x 54in Mill.

One 6in x 12in Diagonal Engine.
One pair Compound Rollers, 6x19 1/2in.
and 15ft 6in.

We have to arrive per "Varuna" in August,
A set of two Centrifugal and Mixer.

One Centrifugal and Mixer for adding
to existing set of Machines.

Centrifugal Linings, Rubbers, Belting and
Sugar-carrying Bands and Rollers, Clar-
ifiers, Crab Winches, Drilling Ma-
chines, Flat Coolers, Tilted
Coolers, Cooler Wagons,
Filter Presses,
Cane Top Cutters,
Chain Blocks to lift
10, 25, 30 and 40 cwt.
Clamp Scales graduated
from 0 to 15 and from 15 to 30; Baum
Vacuum and Pressure Gauges, Ther-
mometers for Vacuum Pans, Hand Ther-
mometers, Rubber Valves for Vacuum
Pumps, Hammers and Files.

Estimates Given for Ma-
chinery not in Stock.

G. W. Macfarlane & Co.
Agents for Mirrlees, Watson & Co. Glasgow
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PORTABLE TRAMWAYS
—AND—
Permanent Railroads

10, 14, and 18 lb. Rail.
Locomotives, Cars, Ties,
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FOR SALE BY

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SECTIONAL MAP OF HONOLULU.

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Lamp-posts, Hydrants, etc., on a large scale.
All parts drawn accurately to scale.
Copies for sale by
M. D. MONSARRAT,
"Gazette" Building.
330 d&wtf

NOTICE.

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SHARE-
holders of the Panaloa Sheepstock Ranch Com-
pany will be held at noon of the 21st of De-
cember at the counting room of G. W. Macfarlane
& Co., Honolulu.

J. ROBBINS, Secretary.
Honolulu, Dec. 22, 1884. 329 d&wtf

Money to Loan

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M. THOMPSON,
Attorney-at-Law,
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G. W. MACFARLANE & Co.,
Have received from London a special
consignment, which is now on view,
LONDON MADE

Diamond Jewelry

OF THE —
Newest and Most Recherche Patterns,
—CONSISTING OF—
Diamond, Ruby Emerald, Sapphire,
Pearl, and Other Gem Rings,
BRACELETS, BANGLES and other Ornaments
all mounted in fine gold
Also a splendid assortment of

GOLD WATCHES.

FOR LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,
Including some fine Minute Repeaters and Chrono-
graphs, in heavy 18-carat gold cases; some
Beautifully Enamelled Watches, in hunting cases,
or Ladies, and assortment of fine

Silver Watches.

Also a very beautiful assortment of SILVER
JEWELRY, of specially new design and make.

—The whole consignment will be placed at
EXCEPTIONALLY LOW PRICES. 127-11

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Cor. Fort & Hotel Streets.

LIVERY, BOARDING, AND SALE STABLES.

Carriages for hire at all hours of the day or
night; also, conveyances of all kinds for parties
going around the island.

Excellent Saddle Horses for Ladies
and Gentlemen. Guaranteed Gentle.
Carriage: Nos. 2, 24, 45, 47, 48, 49,
50, 51, 52 and 53.

Double and single teams always to be had on
livery at the most reasonable rates.

Large and small omnibuses for picnics and ex-
cursion parties, carrying from 10 to 40 passengers, can
always be secured by special arrangements.

Omnibus time tables can be obtained by apply-
ing at the office.

The Long Branch Bathing House
and always be secured for picnic or excursion
parties by applying at the office.

Corner Fort and Hotel Streets.
Telephone No. 34.

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102-11

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P. McInerney,
Importer and Home Manufacturer of
CANDIES OF ALL DESCRIPTIONS.

No. 112 Fort St., just above Hotel St.
Has just made large additions to his establishment
and is now prepared to supply to the trade,
the Honolulu public, and residents on the
other islands, the very finest of

HOMemade and IMPORTED CANDIES.
Of all descriptions and very reduced prices.
Receives Fresh Candies by every arrival. He
guarantees the purity of his goods. THE CREAM
CANDIES are a specialty with him, and are
a specialty with him, and are made by the best
manufacturers in California, and received fresh
every steamer.

Soda Water,

And all kinds of ICED DRINKS.
The best Ice Cream in the City.
The best brand of choice COCA COLA always on hand
112-11

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BOOK BINDER,
Paper Ruler and Blank Book
Manufacturer.

Bookbinding of all descriptions neatly and
promptly executed, and at reasonable charge.

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FOR THE SALE OF

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As well as all kinds of FEED FOR FOWLS, etc.
In LARGE and SMALL quantities,
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JUST RECEIVED
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For Sale at Lowest Market Rates.

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Also, a complete Stock of
Carriage & Wagon Material
Constantly kept on hand, and for sale.

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VERY BEST HAY,
Grain, Etc.,
Which is offered at LOWEST MARKET PRICES
—AND—
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WICKER WORK.

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Now offer for sale at Reasonable Rates a choice
variety of
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New and Beautiful Articles of the most Delicate
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Particular attention paid to repairing. 121-11

1885. 1885.

Honolulu Almanac & Directory

Will be Received and Registered at the
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The work is in course of publication, and will be
out shortly.
Price per 1 doz. copies \$5.00.
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Advertisements.

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A GREAT BOON TO THE
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Beef, Veal, Mutton, Pork and Fish
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Coleman's Patent Dry Air Refrigerator. Guar-
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FRESH KILLED MEATS.
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MEAT FOR SALE ALL DAY.

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On Maunakea St.

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BEEF AND PORK.

—Thanking the public for past patronage, I so-
licit a continuation of the same.
149-11 G. J. WALLER.

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SOLE AGENTS,
SAN FRANCISCO

MADE FROM ALABAMA BOTTOM COTTON,
FREE FROM SIZING
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The Best and most Durable Sail Duck
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For Sale in Honolulu.

GANDY'S PATENT BELTING,

Made from the Very Best
Hard Wove Cotton Duck.

NEVILLE & CO.,
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—THE BEST—
DRIVING BELT,
Neither Heat or Dampness affects
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Stronger than Leather,
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WILL OUTLAST BOTH.

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